

**King County Medical Services Communications Team  
Briefing for TopOff2 Exercise on May 12, 2003**

The King County team of Western Washington Medical Services Communications will participate in the federally sponsored, TOPOFF2 exercise, which will take place on May 12-16, 2003. (The Pierce County team will participate in a separate, but parallel exercise) TOPOFF2 stand for Top Officials 2, being the second of a series of federally sponsored terrorism exercises. The mission of Medical Services is to support the communications needs of the hospitals in King County who are participating in the exercise. **The State Mission # 03-T-1112.**

**Background:** This exercise has dual venues, A biological terrorism event will take place in Chicago and state of Illinois, with subsequent spread of infected victims across the country and internationally. The local venue includes the city of Seattle, King County, and the state of Washington. The scenario will be a radiological terrorism event in the south end industrial district of Seattle. A “dirty bomb” containing a cocktail of radiological isotopes will be detonated, with subsequent damage, loss of life, and contaminated victims.

This is an extremely important, high-visibility exercise, involving hundreds of public safety, governmental and non-governmental staff from many different agencies. Over 200 “victims” will be triaged and transported to local hospitals. There potentially be some very important “top officials” either participating or observing the exercise.

**Objectives:** Our primary objective is to provide backup communication for the participating hospitals in King County. Medical Services team will assign radio operators to each participating hospital in support of the exercise.

There are two objectives specifically designated for the Medical Services team:

- Test the activation of the Medical Services team by contacting the Seattle Emergency Management duty officer, through the Seattle Fire dispatch center. This procedure has been documented for several years, but never tested.
- Test the ability of the radio operators to report to their assigned locations and get through the expectedly high security measures at each hospital. Each member of the Medical Services team should have a photo-ID issued by the City of Seattle,

**Plan of Operation:** The King County Medical Services team will operate under the following guidelines.

- Exercise play will begin around 1150 hrs on Monday, May 12. Termination of play is undetermined, and will vary at each hospital facility. Most exercise play at the hospitals will not go beyond 1800 hours, although Med-Net control and a few hospitals will continue until around 2100 hours. **If you have a uniform shirt, jacket, or hat, please wear it, as it is part of your identification as a communications responder.**
- Radio operators should not report to the hospital in advance, but should pre-stage a short distance from the facility. This is somewhat artificial, but we want to be able to test the ability of operators to get through security lines with their credentials, and yet not delay the response because of short timelines.
  - Between 1115-1145 hrs, radio operators should report to the hospital for assigned duty. If challenged by security or police, present your MST ID. If this does not successfully grant access, be very polite but assertive about requesting the head of security, or have the security officer contact the incident commander for the exercise. **(If you DO NOT currently have an MST ID badge, but have an ID from another jurisdiction, King Co, etc., present that, and show them the Hospital assignment list with your assignment.)**

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- Once the operator(s) gain access to the facility, **report in to the incident commander**, and set up the radio equipment. Check into Med-Net control as soon as possible.
- **Operators must use TACTICAL call signs for identifying their location. (For example, if you are at St. Francis, say: “Med-Net Control, this is St. Francis. I have a bed count, supply order, etc,” Wait to be acknowledged by Net Control.)** Use your FCC call sign only at the end of an exchange of information, or before signing off the net.
- **You MUST precede every message you make related to the exercise with the statement “This is an exercise message”.** We do not want to create panic and hysteria among the many people who are eavesdropping.
- **Most of our message traffic is tactical in nature, but does require logging. Date/time, sender, destination, subject, and precedence, whether it requires a response. There are a few instances when a formal written message is required. The new state message form is attached to your packet.**
- **Remember, all patient information is confidential. No patient-identifiable information should be passed by voice-radio unless you have specific, emergency permission to do so.**
- Med-Net control will operate on the linked W7SRZ system, with **146.90 -/R (103.5) being the primary frequency.** Alternate frequencies that will be linked in are: 443/550+/R (103.5) and 444.825+/R (103.5). Six-meters and the rest of the system will be linked but few, if any hospitals have that capability. **(The link between Finn Hill and Beacon Hill is currently not working)**
- IF there is a necessity to order medical or pharmaceutical supplies, we will establish a special Resource frequency, so that ordering of supplies is not done on the primary frequency. **(We have been offered the use of the 147.08 -/R repeater for ordering supplies.)** Suggested alternate simplex frequency is 146.46, but **Med-Net Control will make a definitive decision on this. If you have a supply order, state that on the primary frequency, and Med-Net Control will direct you and the vendor off to a different frequency. Be sure to come back to the primary when done.**
- Operators will support the communication needs of the hospitals to the best of their abilities. We will probably be mirroring the traffic on 800 MHz radio, but could also be utilizing some unique communication contacts.
- When the hospital terminates play in the exercise, the radio operator is free to stand down. Be sure to check out with Med-Net Control. **If the hospital conducts an on-site debriefing, it is important that the radio operator attends the debriefing and provides input concerning communications.** Before leaving the facility, be sure to check out with the incident commander and secure the radio equipment.
- IF there is a need to stop exercise play for a real-world emergency, the code word will be “REAL WORLD”. **If you hear that code word at your facility, please inform Med-Net Control immediately.**
- St. Joseph’s Hospital in Bellingham **may** be participating, and we still are establishing an operating frequency for them.

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**Media** - If any member of the media approaches you for information or an interview, do NOT discuss the exercise with them. Direct them to speak to the Incident Commander or the Public Information Officer. If they want to know what YOU are doing, tell them about the radios and that we are supporting communications for the hospitals.

**Paperwork and documentation**

- Be sure to LOG all of your message traffic. Please mail it to W. WA Med. Services, PO Box 15624, Seattle, WA. 98115 after the exercise. Include any problems, issues, or comments about the facility, the operation, or the scenario.
  
- Operators must report total hours of operation, from leaving their home to return to home, and their total miles commuted, via E-mail to [n7lsl@arri.net](mailto:n7lsl@arri.net) within 2-3 day of the exercise. These numbers must be turned into the state Emergency Management office within one week.

**If you need to contact Med-Net Control other than on the radio, please call my cell phone: 206-954-4099, or page me at: 206-997-0095.** Have fun with the exercise, and thank you so much for volunteering to participate in it. We can't do it without you!

We will have a Debriefing meeting a couple of weeks after the exercise, on May 24<sup>th</sup>, which is our next scheduled training meeting. Location has not been determined yet.